



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# HEALTH

OF THE

**Urban Sanitary District of Clevedon**

For the Year 1908,

BY

**WALTER J. HILL, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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**PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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Population of the District (Census, 1901)	..	..	..	5,896
Estimated population at middle of 1908	..	..	..	6,157
Area in Statute Acres .. .. .	..	..	..	3,027
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population .. .. .	..	..	..	17.21
Average Birth-rate for previous ten years	..	..	..	18.48
Birth-rate for England and Wales, 1908	..	..	..	26.5
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population .. .. .	..	..	..	14.29
Average Death-rate for previous ten years	..	..	..	13.61
Death-rate for England and Wales, 1908	..	..	..	14.7
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births .. .. .	..	..	..	84.9
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales, 1908	..	..	..	121
Zymotic Death-rate .. .. .	..	..	..	0.16
Zymotic Death-rate England and Wales, 1908	..	..	..	0.99

*Clevedon, February, 1909.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Clevedon Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour of submitting to you my Report for the year 1908 in accordance with the order of the Local Government Board of March, 1891.

Clevedon is a health resort and watering-place, situated on the southern shore of the Bristol Channel, on a sandy soil over carboniferous limestone.

The residential part of the town lies from 100 to 200 feet above the sea level, and is sheltered from the N.E. by Dial Hill, 296 feet above ordnance datum, and from the E. by Court Hill, 300 feet above ordnance datum.

The Climate is mild and equable, the prevailing winds westerly. The total rainfall for the year was 27.38 inches, rain falling on 182 days; the amount of sunshine recorded, as shown in the following table supplied by Major Trestrail, being exceptionally large :—

Month.	1906.	1907.	1908.	Total.	Average.	Total % possible obt'd. Sunshine.
January.....	68	88	91	247	82.3	258— 32%
February .....	94	134	*87	315	105	277— 37.5%
March.....	145	215	139	499	166.3	366— 45.4%
April .....	234	185	155	574	191.3	413— 46.3%
May .....	158	175	210	543	181	481— 37.6%
June .....	236	158	284	678	226	494— 45.8%
	935	955	966	2856	951.9	2289— 41.5%
						Leap Year 2300



July .....	222	216	245	683	227.6	497—	45.8%
August .....	219	195	223	637	212.3	450—	47.1%
September .....	197	226	151	574	191.3	378—	50.6%
October .....	80	103	113	296	98.6	330—	29.8%
November .....	80	94	107	281	93.6	265—	35.3%
December .....	85	55	51	191	63.6	243—	26.13%
	883	889	890	2662	887.3	2163—	41.02%
	935	955	966	2856	951.9	2289	
Total .....	1818	1844	1856	5518	1839.2	4452	

2300

\* Leap Year : 2163

4463

A. B. TRESTRAIL.

House accommodation is adequate, most houses being built of stone, with a large amount of open space and pleasure grounds. Thirteen plans have been passed for new buildings, and six for additions to old buildings.

No action under Parts I., II., and III. respectively of the Housing of the Working Classes Act has been needed.

The Water Supply of the district is from deep well by public service, is ample, and is naturally free from pollution. Samples are periodically examined by the Clinical Research Association, whose last report states :—“This is a water of satisfactory organic purity as judged by chemical analysis and of moderate hardness. It should be a good one for drinking and general use.”

*The Milk Supply* is of excellent character, is almost entirely produced within the district, and the condition of the Dairies and utensils is, on the whole, satisfactory. A considerable amount of milk from the district is sent to Bristol by rail.

During the year I made a systematic and special inspection of all the Dairy Farms, nineteen in number. Out of six not having water from public supply, four had a satisfactory supply of good quality. In two instances ditches, which formed the only water supply for cattle, were contaminated by drainage from sheds and manure heaps. In eight which had Company's water, the cattle also had access to contaminated ponds and ditches. Two cowsheds were considered to be unfit for use.

On my recommendation five ponds and five ditches have been fenced off, two ponds and two ditches have been filled in, one new cowshed has been built in place of one of the two condemned, Company's water has been laid on to five cowsheds, and one shed drained. As regards cowshed accommodation and water supply, things may now considered to be satisfactory.

The chief difficulty remaining is the removal of manure from the cowsheds and their vicinity; seven notices have been served for its removal and one to whitelime, but in a few instances it is still allowed to accumulate against the sheds during the winter months. This defect is still having my attention. No veterinary inspection of cattle is carried out or provided for.

*Public Slaughter House.*—(There are no private Slaughter Houses in the district). Has been regularly inspected, 18 notices have been given to cleanse and whitelime, also two for removal of offal. The carcase of a bullock, condemned as unsound, was destroyed. The butchers' premises and the Public Market, where meat is stored or exposed for sale, are extremely well kept, and their sanitary condition good.

*Sewerage and Drainage* is sufficient in all parts of the district. A portion of main sewer in Highdale Road has been relaid and two manholes built, seven private sewers in Strode Road have been relaid, and a new manhole built in Strode Road. The sewers are flushed twice weekly from 21 flushing tanks and discharge by two outlets into the sea. Numerous alterations to old drains, sanitary fittings, etc., have been made.



*Rivers and Streams.*—The Commission rivers under the control of the Council have been periodically cleansed. No complaints have been received from the viewers.

*Scavenging.*—The removal of house refuse is done weekly by contract and tipped at a distance from the town. It is the custom here, as in many other places, for each householder to place his weekly contribution in a receptacle, not always covered, in the roadway for collection. I am strongly of opinion that, at any rate in a health resort, this should not be done.

*Nuisances.*—General nuisances to the number of 56 have been abated, and eight house refuse complaints attended to.

*Common Lodging Houses.*—The two Common Lodging Houses have been inspected, and one notice given to clean and colour.

*Bye-Laws.*—A complete code is in force for this district.

*The Public Elementary Schools* have been examined as to their sanitary condition, and several improvements carried out in one of them. No school has been closed during the year on account of prevalence of infectious disease, but the school authorities are notified to exclude members of households where infectious disease is present. A communication was received in December from the Chief Medical Inspector of Schools for Somerset to the effect that 17 children had been excluded from school and four for infection in the house for chicken pox, in one of the local elementary schools.

*Infectious Diseases.*—Notification is compulsory, and where isolation cannot be effectually carried out at home, cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital. Disinfection of premises is done by means of formalin vapour and of articles in Thresh's disinfectant. 849 articles were disinfected during the year, and two beds destroyed.

*Isolation Hospital.*—On the Strode Road, about a mile from the town and away from other buildings, has accommodation for twelve patients, and is suitable for the concurrent treatment of two diseases. Has been used for scarlet fever cases only; the accommodation has so far proved sufficient, and its existence has been justified repeatedly, in preventing the spread of infection by the prompt isolation of initial cases.

*Tuberculosis.*—No notification was in force, but this year (1909) the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, come into force, making the notification of pauper cases compulsory. Disinfection has been done in cases of tuberculosis on the request of the medical attendant. There is no special hospital provision for consumption in the district.

*Mortality during the Year 1908.*—The total number of deaths during the year was 89, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 14.45. Excluding the deaths of five persons who came into the district ill, the number of deaths is 84, and the amended death-rate is 13.64. This is satisfactory considering that our population largely consists of old persons and those in feeble health. The average death-rate for the previous ten years was 13.61, and that for England and Wales was 14.7 for the year 1908.

The deaths during the year occurred at the following ages:—

Under 1 year	....	..	..	..	..	9
1 and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	3
5 „ „ 15 years	..	..	..	..	..	1
15 „ „ 25 years	..	..	..	..	..	7
25 „ „ 65 years	..	..	..	..	..	26
65 years and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	42

It will be noticed that nearly half the deaths were of persons over 65, of these no less than 21 were over 80, one being 94 and another 98.



*Causes of Death.*—The chief causes of death were :—

Tuberculosis .. .. .	5	Pneumonia .. .. .	8
Cancer .. .. .	4	Heart Diseases .. .. .	11
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	Premature Birth .. .. .	3
		Old Age .. .. .	10

*Zymotic Diseases.*—The deaths from the “seven principal zymotic diseases,” namely, small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, “fever” (typhus, simple continued, and enteric), and diarrhœa, numbered one, from scarlet fever. This gives a zymotic death-rate of 0.16. That for England and Wales was 0.99 for the year 1908.

*Infantile Mortality.*—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered nine, which gives an infantile death-rate per 1,000 births registered of 84.9. The average for the preceding year was 112.24, and that for England and Wales (1908) 121. Of these nine deaths, five were under one month, three being from premature birth and two from congenital defects; of the remaining four, death was due to meningitis in one and pneumonia in three. None of these appear to have been due to improper feeding, and the low infantile death-rate in this district probably depends on the fact that very few mothers being employed in factories, they usually nurse their children, and if they do not, good milk is readily obtainable. The children live under healthy conditions as regards climate and good house accommodation. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not in force.

*Births during the year.*—The number of births registered during the year was 106, of which eight were illegitimate. Of the 106 births, 62 were boys and 44 girls. The birth-rate per 1,000 of population is 17.21; the average birth-rate for the previous ten years was 18.48, and that for England and Wales 26.5 for the year 1908. This exceptionally low birth-rate is due to the same cause as mentioned in connection with the death-rate, namely, that the population largely consists of old people and retired persons of mature age.

*Notification of Infectious Diseases.*—Twenty-one notifications were received during the year. 15 of scarlet fever, 1 of diphtheria, 2 of erysipelas, 1 of enteric fever, and 2 of puerperal fever.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Of the 15 cases notified, 9 were removed to the Isolation Hospital, of which one died. Two visitors were removed out of the district under proper precautions, and four were treated in their own homes. One group of three cases occurred in the same house, the original source of infection probably being from lodgers. Another group of three was among the children of adjoining houses, removal to the Isolation Hospital preventing any further spread. The remaining seven cases and the two visitors were of independent and undiscovered origin, but it is worthy of remark that five cases occurred in the families of the boot factory employees, mostly Bristol men, who with their families are in frequent communication with their former homes and neighbours.

*Diphtheria.*—The one case of diphtheria was notified on Sept. 16th, and was apparently infected from a case at Nailsea.

*Erysipelas.*—Two cases, both of facial erysipelas. In my experience this variety, at any rate, is not infectious.

*Enteric Fever.*—One case; was believed to have arisen from consumption of oysters.

*Puerperal Fever.*—One occurred from auto-infection from patient's own neglect after a miscarriage. The second was one of pelvic peritonitis.

*Medical Inspection of School Children* is carried out by the County Council. One communication has been received from the Chief Medical Inspector in reference to the absence of children from school on account of chicken pox. No action was needed as to closing of schools.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Systematic inspections have been made. The *Boot Factory* and *Steam Laundry* are in satisfactory condition as regards cleanliness, air-space, ventilation, and sanitary conveniences. There are 15 *Bakehouses*, none being underground, all in a satisfactory condition ; one notice given to whitelime.

*Home Work.*—Under Section 107 of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, the owners and occupiers of workshops must twice a year send names and addresses to the sanitary authority of home workers employed by them. In their district there are only two of such home workers, whose names and addresses have been received in accordance with the Act. The homes of these workers are known to be kept clean and not overcrowded, and no infectious disease has occurred in them during the year.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is in force in the district. No action was taken or needed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER J. HILL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



